

CLAIMS

The embodiments of an invention in which an exclusive property or right is claimed are define as follows:

1 1. An input device for an aircraft computer system
2 comprising:
3 a) a cursor control housing including,
4 1) a wrist rest portion;
5 b) a cursor control device mounted on said housing
6 forward of said wrist rest portion and within finger reach
7 of said wrist rest, said device generating cursor control
8 signals representative of operator activation of said
9 device; and,
10 c) a rotary knob mounted on said housing and within
11 finger reach of said wrist rest, said knob generating
12 rotary signals indicative of rotation of said knob.

1 2. The input device according to claim 1 wherein said
2 rotary knob includes,
3 a) a coarse knob generating coarse rotary signals
4 indicative of rotation of said coarse rotary knob, and,
5 b) a fine knob generating fine rotary signals
6 indicative of rotating of said fine rotary knob.

1 3. The input device according to claim 1 wherein said
2 rotary knob extends axially from said housing.

4. The input device according to claim 1 wherein said cursor control device is a joystick.

5. An input device for a vehicle computer system comprising:

a) a cursor control housing including,

1) wrist/rest means for supporting the wrist/hand of an operator;

b) cursor control means, mounted on said housing within finger reach of said rest means, for generating cursor control signals indicative of X-Y actuations of said cursor control means; and,

c) rotary input means, mounted on said housing within finger reach of said rest means, for generating rotary signals indicative of rotation of said rotary input means.

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1 6. The input device for aircraft avionics systems
2 according to claim 5 wherein said rotary input means
3 includes,

4 a) a coarse knob generating coarse rotary signals
5 indicative of rotation of said coarse rotary knob, and,

6 b) a fine knob generating fine rotary signals
7 indicative of rotating of said fine rotary knob.

1 7. A method of inputting data to a vehicle computer
2 system having a display device and cursor, said method
3 comprising the steps of:

4 a) providing a control console in communication with
5 said computer system, said console having,

6 1) a housing including a wrist rest portion;

7 2) a cursor control device mounted on said housing
8 within finger reach of said wrist rest portion, said
9 device generating cursor control signals representative of
10 actuation of said device; and,

11 3) a rotary knob mounted on said housing within
12 finger reach of said wrist rest portion, said knob
13 generating rotary signals indicative of rotation of said
14 knob;

15 b) manipulating said cursor control device to select
16 a desired parameter; and,

17 c) rotating said rotary knob to select a desired
18 value for said parameter.

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